

Resolutions of the 19th Plenary Assembly of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar

Preamble

The 19th Plenary Assembly of the **SYMPOSIUM OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR (SECAM)** took place from July 25 to August 1, 2022 in Accra, Ghana on the theme: **“Ownership of SECAM: Security and Migration in Africa and the Islands.”**

At the end of this plenary assembly, having listened to the various speakers, who came from Africa and various continents, we make the following resolutions:

1. On ownership of Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar

The 19th plenary assembly coincided with the 53rd anniversary of the SECAM "which was created on July 29, 1969 as a body for synodality and pastoral coordination" (Kampala document, 26). Each of us is invited to appropriate this historical heritage. To this end, we are committed to effectively and affectively support SECAM by acts of solidarity and fraternal communion as Pope Benedict XVI reminded us in *Africae Munus* (cf. n ° 107). Therefore, we will work to make SECAM and its activities more known and improve its governance as well as its human and financial resources. We will encourage our training and information structures to integrate SECAM more into their programmes. SECAM is ours.

2. On migration

- With the pastoral agents, we are committed to taking measures that promote the free choice of our young people but also the commitment of each of them in the construction of their country.

-We ask the civil authorities to launch awareness campaigns on the dangers of irregular immigration and to create suitable living conditions so that no one feels obliged to leave his country.

-We encourage all Christians and people of good will to work for a climate of universal fraternity in the spirit of Fratelli Tutti and to engage in advocacy with our States for the establishment of a policy of reception, protection, promotion and integration of immigrants.

- We appeal to multilateral organizations, political forces and civil society in each country to promote the establishment of international relations that are solidary, fair and equitable.

3. On synodality

We welcomed the Synod on Synodality with joy. After the diocesan phase of the celebration of the synod, we pledge to combine our efforts to carry out the continental phase. In communion with the General Secretariat of the Synod, we will ensure that the working group created by SECAM for the implementation of the plan of this phase is supported in its initiatives for all the Church family-of God in Africa and Madagascar in its diversity: bishops, consecrated persons, lay people and theologians.

-We will ensure that this stage is lived in the dynamics of *Ecclesia in Africa*, of *Africae munus* and the Kampala Document.

-We undertake to constitute a data bank relating to the synodal process, coming from the dioceses, national and regional Episcopal Conferences, for the deepening of the faith in Africa.

4. Security

In the perspective of assuming its prophetic mission, of being the voice of the voiceless, the Church Family of God in Africa:

- Invites its communication unit to provide good information in real time on the security situation in Africa;

- Undertakes to support and accompany all the structures that are at the service of social security;

- Undertakes to denounce all causes of social insecurity.

- Asks the African Union and regional institutions to put in place a policy of sincere dialogue to promote security in Africa;

-Intends to strengthen communication between churches and SECAM.

- To support the populations victims of insecurity in Africa.

5. Communication

Because of the importance of communication strongly emphasized by *Ecclesia in Africa*, *Africae Munus* and the Kampala Document, we recommend:

-to invest in the professional training of communicators;

-to convey only the correct information.

- invite people to receive with discernment the information given to them.

Given at Accra

31st July 2022